

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	North Korea	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Unemployment and Starvation in P'yongyang	DATE DISTR.	8 December 1955	
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DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information		

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. The unemployment problem in P'yongyang is aggravated by the following circumstances:¹
 - a. A large-scale reduction of the government labor force in January 1955 resulting from government agencies' preference for hiring college and university students who have been well indoctrinated with Communist ideology.²
 - b. An influx of men, discharged from the North Korean armed forces, who seek employment in the large cities.³
 - c. An influx of farmers with a similar purpose, having left the rural areas when the government began purchasing grain.⁴
2. The grave economic conditions have been responsible for an increase of crime in P'yongyang. Theft of food is common and aged indigents, when they are no longer able to beg, die of starvation in the streets.

1. Comment. This appears a reversal of the situation reported that there was a continuing critical shortage of skilled and unskilled labor in North

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Korea, a situation expected to last for a considerable period of time.
[] in order to ameliorate the
situation the North Korean government was trying to induce North Koreans
living in China to return to the homeland. 25X1

2. [] Comment. [] the reduction of
government employees took place [] the official reason
advanced being the completion of priority reconstruction projects which
eliminated the need for the workers. 25X1
3. [] Comment. Able-bodied and technically experienced men among the
veterans found jobs, but the disabled and unemployed are wandering
around P'yongyang, stealing food to keep alive. 25X1
4. [] Comment. Even if a farmer obtains work he does not receive a food
ration from his employer unless he has a certificate from his former
place of residence indicating that his grain ration had been discontinued. 25X1



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